



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 June 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- Aero—News Network reports the National Transportation Safety Board recommends the Federal Aviation Administration should keep a close watch for possible medical and criminal issues with pilots as they undergo medical evaluations. (See item [10](#))
- The Associated Press reports railroads and federal security officials want to build a complex of above-ground tunnels at a Colorado test center to experiment with ways to protect trains and subway stations from terrorist attacks and accidents. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *June 24, Associated Press* — **BP looks to emerge from rough few years.** Today, oil production in the North Slope of Alaska is in steady decline — about six percent a year — but the North Slope's largest operator, BP PLC, remains bullish about the future because of the region's untapped resources. BP says the region is teeming with enough natural gas and heavy crude oil to keep production going for another 50 years. High oil and gas prices, and significant technology advancements, are spurring exploration even deeper and farther offshore into the Arctic's Beaufort Sea. On June 10, BP drilled its first test well for a "heavy" oil that for now cannot be shipped down the trans-Alaska pipeline operated by the Alyeska Pipeline Service

Co. Doug Suttles of BP Exploration Alaska Inc. says BP knows of about 20 billion barrels of heavy oil in the North Slope that would extend the life of the pipeline. But that oil needs rigorous treatment so it can be shipped like crude. Suttles says BP is hoping to find the right technology, much as Canadian operators have in making oil sands production profitable. "We know where the oil is; it's just about unlocking the technology to make it work," Suttles said.

Source: <http://www.baynews9.com/content/9/2007/6/24/263990.html?title=BP%20Looks%20to%20Emerge%20From%20Rough%20Few%20Years>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. *June 25, Contra Costa Times (CA)* — **Acid spill closes interstate ramp.** Caltrans closed an Interstate 80 connector ramp until noon PDT after a hydrochloric acid spill Monday morning, June 25, in Vallejo the California Highway Patrol said. Shortly after 6:30 a.m. PDT, officers received reports that cars were swerving to avoid a milk jug with about a half-gallon of yellow liquid in it that had spilled across the middle of the ramp connecting eastbound I-80 to eastbound Interstate 780. Vallejo police and fire crews arrived and the ramp was closed to traffic just after 7:30 a.m. PDT.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_6224739?nclink_check=1

3. *June 25, KMBC-TV (MO)* — **Chemical plant explosion prompts six-block evacuation.** Investigators are trying to find what sparked a series of explosions Sunday afternoon, June 24, at a Richmond, MO, chemical plant. A 55-gallon drum exploded in a trailer outside the Arnette Limited plant, and several blasts followed. Several employees who were at the plant were not injured. A six-block area was evacuated for a few hours as a result.

Source: <http://www.thekansascitychannel.com/news/13564434/detail.html>

4. *June 22, Associated Press* — **Wind and chemicals fuel fire, explosions.** Strong winds whipped a boiler explosion at a chemical recycling plant near Eau Claire, WI, into a raging fire that sent dozens of fireballs hundreds of feet into the air. Fiery explosions at the Waste Research and Reclamation plant caused firefighters to evacuate the scene, where a thick, black cloud of smoke billowed from the plant. One chemical explosion resulted in a concussive boom and sent flames more than 300 feet in the air. Residents and businesses within three-quarters of a mile were evacuated as a precaution.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=5413327>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Many in U.S. don't have bank accounts.** As many as 28 million people in the U.S. States are forgoing traditional financial institutions because of mistrust, cultural and language barriers or a belief that by the time all the bills are paid there will be nothing left for an account. That can be expensive and risky. People can run up big fees to cash checks, pay bills and meet their other financial needs. Walking around with large amounts of cash can make them a target for thieves. The bankless are estimated to earn hundreds of billions of dollars a year in income. Seeing a business opportunity, banks are trying to draw in these potential customers. So, too, are check-cashing businesses and retailers, including Wal-Mart. Many people, however, still resist, preferring to remain in the financial shadows. They tend to be minority — Hispanic or blacks especially — as well as low income and young. According to the Federal Reserve, about one in 12 families — 8.7 percent — does not have a bank account. The number is higher for the poorest — nearly a quarter of families earning less than \$18,900.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/23/AR2007062300564_pf.html

6. *June 22, Computerworld* — **Customers are increasingly wary after losing data.** Faced with security breaches and personal data hemorrhages from retailers and a variety of educational and medical facilities, consumers are now becoming more skittish about the potential dangers of e-commerce. That was one of the findings of a new survey on consumer privacy conducted by the Ponemon Institute. One of the most sobering statistics from the survey was that a whopping 62 percent of the participants had been notified by an organization holding their private data that some of their information had been breached. In addition, 84 percent of that group felt "anxiety" over the data loss, according to the Ponemon Institute. Data breaches have the potential to negatively affect online consumer buying habits, making consumers less willing to share credit card information or their Social Security number online. For instance, 43 percent of those customers who have already suffered a data loss wouldn't use a debit or credit card to make a purchase with a new Web retailer. The five categories of private data that generated the most concern among consumers were medical records, pharmaceutical history, credit card and debit card information, and Social Security numbers.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9025539&intsrc=news_list

7. *June 21, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network* — **New enhanced SAR Activity Review issued.** The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued Thursday, June 21, the latest edition of "SAR Activity Review – By The Numbers" that introduces a number of visual enhancements aimed at providing financial institutions with more information on the geographical dispersion of the Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) filings. The enhancements unveiled in Issue 8 include representations of the numerical depository institution SAR data for individual states; charts and graphs highlighting Suspicious Activity Reports (SAR) filing trends and patterns between April 1, 1996 and December 31, 2006 for each state and territory; and maps for calendar year 2006. FinCEN recently provided Bank Secrecy Act Data Profiles to 43 state supervisory agencies. While SAR filings increased, the rate of increase in suspicious activity reported by financial institutions that have more reporting experience, such as depository institutions, slowed between 2005 and 2006 compared to previous years. The rate of increase between 2004 and 2005 dropped from 37 percent to nine percent in 2005–2006. As of the end of 2006, depository institutions, money services businesses, casinos and card clubs, and

the securities and futures industries have filed more than 4.2 million SARs.

Report: http://www.fincen.gov/sars/btn_8/sar_btn_Issue8.pdf

Source: http://www.fincen.gov/news_release_sar_btn8.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *June 25, Reuters* — **Customer service a casualty of U.S. airline recovery.** As frustrated as travelers may be with crowded planes and delayed flights, these are the realities of the leaner U.S. airline industry as it works its way back to profitability after a brutal years-long slump. U.S. airlines are on the mend after years of losses stemming from terror concerns, soaring fuel costs and low-fare competition. Since 2001, four major carriers have slashed costs in bankruptcy. Meanwhile, many carriers have reined in capacity — the number of seats for sale — to fly fuller planes. The Air Transport Association (ATA), a U.S. industry trade group, says planes on average will be more than 80 percent full this summer as a record 209 million travelers take to the skies. "The carriers' actions are paying off," ATA spokesperson David Castelveter said. "They're starting to make money. Their airplanes are full." The downside to flying full planes is there are fewer seats available to accommodate people displaced by canceled flights. As a result, travelers can be stranded for hours or even days. "In the old days, when flights were half empty, delays were less stressful," said Joe Schwieterman, an airline expert at DePaul University. "Nowadays delays mean almost intolerable crowding both in airports and on airplanes."

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/070624/airlines_delays.html?.v=1

9. *June 25, Associated Press* — **Twenty-two feared dead in Cambodian plane crash.** A chartered plane carrying 22 people between two popular tourist destinations in Cambodia crashed Monday, June 25, in a remote, mountainous jungle, aviation officials said. The plane, a Russian-made An-24, was flying from Siem Reap — home to the popular Angkor Wat temple complex — to the coastal city of Sihanoukville, said Him Sarun, Cabinet chief for the Secretariat of Civil Aviation. In Chiva, a provincial police chief, said conservation workers on a nearby mountain reported seeing a plane crash in thick forest in the distance. Rescue teams of soldiers and police searched the area, but Him Sarun said they had not reached the crash site nine hours after the plane disappeared—hampered by nightfall, the remoteness of the area and slippery soil from recent rains that made trails impassable for vehicles. Five ambulances were sent to the general area of the crash. Him Sarun said the flight is thought to have crashed between Kamchay and Bokor mountains, about 80 miles southwest of the capital, Phnom Penh. The plane belonged to PMT Air, a small Cambodian airline that began flying the route in January.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/nationworld/ci_6222780

10. *June 25, Aero-News Network* — **NTSB recommends FAA take closer look at pilot evaluations.** In a new round of safety recommendations announced Monday, June 25, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) says the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should keep a close watch for possible medical and criminal issues with pilots as they undergo medical evaluations. The recommendations suggest the FAA ensure that any airman undergoing a medical evaluation following a traffic conviction or administrative action that is

required to be reported in the FAA Application for Airman Medical Certificate, be required to provide a complete copy of the relevant arrest report and/or court records. Those records should also be placed in the airman's FAA medical file prior to clinical evaluation for certification, the NTSB states. The Board also suggests the FAA require all airmen clinically diagnosed with substance dependence (including dependence on alcohol), who are medically certified by the FAA subsequent to such diagnosis, be closely followed under guidelines for special issuance of medical certificates for the period that they hold such certificates.

Safety Recommendation Report: http://www.nts.gov/recs/letters/2007/A07_41_43.pdf

Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=371189b6-2830-4ae2-9d23-1b9956bd1089>

11. *June 25, Associated Press* — **Connecticut cuts back on bridge inspections.** The state Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to scale back inspections of most Connecticut bridges in an effort to save money. "Generally, going forward, our position is to (inspect) every four years, rather than every two," DOT spokesperson Judd Everhart said. "As long as the bridge is in at least fair condition or better, that there are no load issues for that bridge, we believe that ... four years is adequate." That means inspections will occur half as often the federal government recommends, and less often than at the time of the 1983 Mianus River Bridge collapse, which killed three people. Senator Donald DeFronzo (D-New Britain), co-chairman of the legislature's Transportation Committee, said he will ask DOT to reconsider its cutback in inspections, especially for some bridges that are not in good condition. Some bridge experts said Connecticut's change in policy could have consequences for the long-term health of some bridges. "The standard requirement is every two years," said Andrzej S. Nowak, a civil engineering professor at the University of Nebraska and an expert in bridge safety.

Source: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/state/hc-25142541.apds.m0856.bc-ct--bridjun25.0.7052544.story?coll=hc-headlines-local-wire>

12. *June 25, Associated Press* — **Colorado rail center plans tunnels to test terrorist attacks.** Railroads and federal security officials want to build a complex of above-ground tunnels at a Colorado test center to experiment with ways to protect trains and subway stations from terrorist attacks and accidents. The Transportation Technology Center is already testing emergency responses to spills of simulated hazardous materials from trains. After train bombings in Great Britain, Spain, and India, officials want to investigate ways to secure rail and subway systems from terrorists. "I'm concerned about trains and tunnels; I'm concerned about bridges; I'm concerned about the cars and the people," said Mary Ellen Hynes, a research director for the Department of Homeland Security. Hynes said the new research is designed to see how tunnels react to explosions and how tunnels can be strengthened and made safer. The tests would also look for ways to improve rail passenger cars. The Transportation Technology Center, about 20 miles northeast of Pueblo, is owned by the federal Department of Transportation and operated under contract by the Association of American Railroads, an industry group.

Source: <http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20070625/NEWS/70625011>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *June 24, Associated Press* — **Postal workers taking part in bio-terror drill.** Postal workers will be delivering in Philadelphia Sunday, June 24, but not bills and letters. The deliveries are part of a bio-terror drill. The exercise will test how well postal carriers can deliver simulated boxes of medication to the public in case of an emergency. Postal officials said the boxes will list a phone number and Website where people can get more information. The deliveries will be timed and the city's emergency operations center will monitor the drill.

Source: http://cbs3.com/topstories/local_story_175095900.html

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Agriculture Sector

14. *June 23, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found in Texas.** Asian soybean rust was found in a commercial soybean field Wednesday, June 20, in Cameron County, TX, just outside Brownsville on the border with Mexico. This is the second instance of rust in commercial soybeans in the state this year, and the farthest north rust has been found in the state. Officials said this field had been scouted in 2005 and 2006 with no finding of rust.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=1053>

15. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Farmer: registration violates religion.** A Mennonite farmer who claimed he would suffer "eternal damnation" if he complied with Pennsylvania's numbering system to sell ducks won't be expected to follow the rule after all. State Agriculture Department officials said Friday, June 22, it had erroneously advised poultry farmers that they would need a number to participate in the state's avian-influenza monitoring program this year. Spokesperson Christopher Ryder said officials realized the error only after the farmer sued the department on Thursday, June 21. The lawsuit said he and other members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite Church believe the Bible's book of Revelation warns that numbering systems that require participation as a requirement for doing business are the work of the Antichrist. The farmer contends that the state rule unconstitutionally violates his religious beliefs and that the state has no authority to require participation in the voluntary federal program. Ryder said department officials expect to reach an accommodation with the farmer and will contact other farmers to ensure that they know that participation in the federal program is not mandatory. Ryder said he did not know how many farmers received the incorrect notices.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/23/AR2007062300096.html>

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Food Sector

16. *June 25, Associated Press* — **Japan, U.S. to hold meetings over beef.** Japan and the U.S. will hold a two-day technical meeting on U.S. beef imports, officials said Monday, June 25, amid expectations the talks may pave the way for easing Japan's strict import restrictions. Officials from the two countries will meet Wednesday and Thursday in Tokyo, according to a press release by the Japanese Health and Agriculture Ministries. Japan only allows imports of U.S. beef from cattle 20 months old or younger, because the mad cow disease has not been detected

in meat from young cattle although the U.S. has called for that restriction to be eased. In May, the World Organization for Animal Health ruled that the U.S. was a "controlled risk nation" all countries that can export beef irrespective of the animal's age. The U.S. has cited that report in urging Japan to review its policy.

Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=3312053>

17. *June 24, Access North Georgia* — *Listeria found in salmon and cheese spread.*

Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin announced Saturday, June 23, that Georgia Department of Agriculture food scientists have found *Listeria monocytogenes* in a sample of Bright Water Smoked Salmon & Cheese Spread. The spread is manufactured by Bright Water Seafoods, LLC, of Charlotte, NC. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially serious disease.

Source: http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/hall/newfullstory.asp?ID=1_15196

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Water Sector

18. *June 25, China Ministry of Water Resources* — *More than eight million Chinese suffer from drinking water shortage.* Drought has led 8.36 million Chinese to suffer from temporary drinking water shortages, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said on Friday June 22. The headquarters said the drought, which has mainly hit northern China, has affected 8.1 million hectares of crops and left 7.32 million head of livestock short of drinking water.

Source: <http://www.mwr.gov.cn/english/20070625/85075.asp>

19. *June 24, Associated Press* — *Water restrictions drain utility revenues.* South Florida utility managers are reporting significant drops in water usage — and revenues — since a drought triggered strict water restrictions in April. "Our average water output is 34 million gallons a day; that is usually what we sell," said West Palm Beach public information officer Peter Robbins. "We've dropped to as low as 17 million on some days, which is phenomenal. It's a great conservation record, but we're selling a product, and all of a sudden we're selling half of it." In May, the South Florida Water Management District imposed the region's most severe water restrictions on record, attempting to cut water usage by 45 percent. Violators faced steep fines as Florida struggled with some of the worst drought conditions on record. A permanent drop in usage could lead to deferred maintenance, surplus charges for high-end users and, ultimately, rate hikes, utility managers said. No rate hikes have been proposed yet.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/775/story/149924.html>

20. *June 23, Battle Creek Enquirer (MI)* — *Gasoline leak sparks call for water watch.* A underground storage tank leaked between 7,000 and 9,000 gallons of gasoline in Bedford, MI, the weekend of June 16. The Bedford Township Fire Department and the Calhoun County Office of Emergency Management advised nearby residents to watch for contamination of tap water. Logan's Gas and Deli owner Paul Singh noticed the leak when tank levels didn't match sales at his gas station. Health officials believe the gas escaped quickly through a crack along the tank seam. The Health Department will sample wells weekly until water supplies are

assured safe.

Source: <http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070623/NEWS01/706230318/1002/NEWS01>

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Public Health Sector

21. *June 25, Association for Professionals in Infection and Epidemiology* — **National prevalence study of MRSA in U.S. healthcare facilities.** In October and November 2006, the Association for Professionals in Infection and Epidemiology (APIC) conducted a national Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) prevalence study. Data show that 46 out of every 1,000 patients in the study were either infected or colonized with MRSA. This rate is between eight and 11 times greater than previous MRSA estimates. The total number of patients with MRSA colonization/infection was 8,654. The overall MRSA rate (infection and colonization, HA-MRSA and CA-MRSA) was 46.3 per 1,000 inpatients. For states with reporting from >5 facilities, the MRSA rate ranged from 16–91 per 1,000 inpatients. The clinical culture positive MRSA rate (i.e., including only infections) ranged from 16–48 (avg= 34) per 1,000 inpatients. There were 1,237 facilities providing data in the survey. This sample represents approximately 21 percent of all U.S. healthcare facilities. These facilities were located in every state in the U.S.

Source: http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ResearchFoundation/NationalMRSAPrevalenceStudy/APIC_MRSA_STUDY_EXEC.pdf

22. *June 24, United Press International* — **Bird flu found in Germany.** Seven dead birds found near two lakes in southern Germany tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus, it was reported Sunday, June 24. The find marked the first cases of bird flu in Germany this year. Authorities in Nuremberg warned people to stay away from waterfowl after the five swans, one duck and one goose all tested positive for the H5N1 virus, Deutsche Welle said.

Source: http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/06/24/bird_flu_found_in_germany/7429/

23. *June 23, Agence France-Presse* — **Egyptian boy has bird flu.** A four-year-old Egyptian boy has been diagnosed as having contracted the H5N1 bird flu virus, state news agency MENA quoted the health ministry as announcing on Saturday, June 23. Emad Mohammed al-Daramalli, from the Upper Egypt province of Qena, was hospitalized with a high fever on Thursday, June 21. He became the 37th case of the virus reported in Egypt since the first outbreak was announced in February 2006. A 10-year-old girl died of bird flu earlier in June, bringing to 15 the number of fatalities in Egypt.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070623/wl_mideast_afp/healthflu_egypt_070623171459;_ylt=ArdYSA66X.div3knUIZIRHGJOrgF

24. *June 22, Reuters* — **New bird flu outbreak confirmed in Togo.** Laboratory tests in Ghana confirmed that the H5N1 avian flu virus caused the sudden deaths of 2000 chickens at a farm near Togo's capital Lome. It is the first time the virus has been detected in Togo, the seventh West African nation to have reported an outbreak. The farm in Togo, in the town of Sigbehoue,

had received a shipment of chicks in February from neighboring Ghana. Avian flu was detected in Ghana last May.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/b745ab8c05550562846a0e3e94a70e59.htm>

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Government Sector

25. *June 25, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–697: Combating Terrorism: Law Enforcement Agencies Lack Directives to Assist Foreign Nations to Identify, Disrupt, and Prosecute Terrorists (Report)**. Three U.S. national strategies, developed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, directed U.S. law enforcement agencies (LEA) to focus on the prevention of terrorist attacks. The strategies called for LEAs to intensify their efforts to help foreign nations identify, disrupt, and prosecute terrorists. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to assess (1) the guidance for LEAs to assist foreign nations to identify, disrupt, and prosecute terrorists and (2) the extent to which LEAs have implemented this guidance. GAO recommends that the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) ensure that the implementing guidance for its NCTC's plan for combating terrorism articulates a clear strategy for using LEAs to help foreign nations combat terrorism. GAO also recommends that State, Justice, and DHS explore enhancements to overseas coordination mechanisms and develop clear guidance and performance monitoring to enhance efforts to help foreign nations combat terrorism. NCTC stated it had already begun to implement our recommendations. DHS generally agreed with our recommendations. State and Justice stated they would consider ways to improve overseas coordination, but did not indicate whether they concurred with GAO's other recommendations. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07697high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-697>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *June 24, WCSH6–TV (ME)* — **Amateur radio operators prepare for emergencies**. Amateur radio operators are trained to step in when all other communication fails in an emergency. This past weekend Ham Radio groups around the country set up their gear and competed to make the most radio contacts in a 24-hour period. The groups put up their own antennas and operate off of generators.
Source: <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=64352>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

27. *June 25, Security Focus* — **Spanish police arrest alleged phone-virus creator**. Authorities in Spain charged a 28-year-old man with creating more than 20 different variants of the Cabir and CommWarrior viruses, which could infect mobile phones based on the Symbian operating

system, antivirus firms stated on Sunday, June 24. Law enforcement officers arrested the man in Valencia, Spain, after a seven-month investigation into the viruses, which infected an estimated 115,000 phones, according to a police statement cited by antivirus firm Sophos. The viruses reportedly contain a reference to "Leslie," which Sophos claims is the name of the suspect's fiancée.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/534>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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